



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Douglas County

Work Underway to Replace SR 166 Bridge Over Anneewakee Creek; New Bridge Could Be Open by Summer 2010

ATLANTA – The Georgia Department of Transportation is taking immediate action to replace the State Route 166 Bridge over Annawakee Creek which sustained significant damage during September flooding. Georgia DOT staff began designing the bridge deck earlier this week. Surveyors and a drill team will begin work today.

“This is a critical corridor carrying nearly 9,000 vehicles daily and we recognize the inconvenience to the residents of Douglas and Carroll counties,” said Georgia DOT Commissioner Vance C. Smith, Jr. “Our goal is to let the project in mid-October with a six month completion date.”

Reconstruction of the new two-lane bridge is expected to cost between \$2 million to \$3 million, with estimates based on the final design.

“Normally we design for a defining flood using modeling, but under these circumstances we can actually see the aftermath of a defining flood and will be designing the new bridge accordingly,” Smith said.

Georgia DOT closed the bridge Monday September 21, 2009 when waters from the creek rushed into the beams of the bridge and washed away part of the roadway approach. After the waters receded, Georgia DOT inspectors determined the approach slab had been undermined and the bridge could not be immediately reopened.

Follow-up inspections by the Department’s underwater team confirmed the creek bed eroded 10 feet since the flood. Additionally, the foundation soil around the bridge columns eroded – in one case more than six feet – which undermined the bridge support structure. Additionally, nearly the entire roadway over the east end approach of the bridge collapsed during the 24 hours between inspections Tuesday, September 29 and Wednesday September 30. The approach for the west end of the bridge was also compromised and the creek banks on both sides eroded 10-20 feet.

Considering the bridge age (built in 1957) and type of damage Georgia DOT recommended to the Federal Highway Administration on September 30 that the bridge be replaced. FHWA concurred with this conclusion. Efforts are underway to secure necessary federal highway funds for reconstruction.

Georgia DOT urges travelers to call 511 for updated information about this or any other construction project on interstates and state routes. Georgia 511 is a free phone service that provides real-time traffic and travel information statewide, such as traffic conditions, incidents, lane closures, and delays due to inclement weather. Callers also can transfer to operators to request assistance or report incidents 24 hours a day, seven days a week. More information is available at www.511ga.org.

The Georgia Department of Transportation is committed to providing a safe, seamless and sustainable transportation system that supports Georgia's economy and is sensitive to both its citizens and its environment. For general information on the Georgia DOT, please visit our Web site (www.dot.ga.gov).

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